



<p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban Limit Surveyed Open Spaces Open Space* Priority Regeneration Areas SIRR Areas 	<p>Local Plan Proposals and Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Recreational & Community Facilities Transport Economic Development Housing Path proposals 	<p>Access Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustrans Cycle Route Green Travel Path Green Travel Proposed Route Right of Way 	<p>Strategy Key</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential lack of access to semi-natural open space Potential lack of access to public parks Potential lack of access to sports area Potential lack of access to play spaces Improve connections between open space Improve access to open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve + enhance regional semi-natural spaces for biodiversity Enhance local biodiversity through local biodiversity toolkit Conserve + enhance awareness of cultural heritage Opportunity for new allotments/ community gardens Promote + enhance canal as a national green space 96 Priority quality improvements required <p>* Areas of open space may include open water.</p>	<p>Falkirk Open Space Strategy</p> <p>Figure 7.7R (SHIE.6)</p> <p>Conceptual Strategy - Shieldhill</p>
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Shieldhill

Survey/ Issues

- Shieldhill has a population of approximately 2,475 people, and 3.36ha of public open space within its urban limit. This excludes access to surveyed public open spaces adjacent to the urban edge and to the surrounding countryside.
- A relatively high percentage of households (87%) has access (within 400m) to one or more of the four surveyed public open spaces.
- The supply of private gardens, with an average of 275m² per household, is lower than the average village supply of 384m² but higher than the average town supply of 193m².
- Although there is very good access to surveyed public open space in Shieldhill, the percentage of households with access (within 400m) to a fit for purpose surveyed public open space is lower, at 62% (the centre and part of the east of the village). Of the four surveyed open spaces in Shieldhill, two are fit for purpose (115 – Shieldhill Park, Main Street, and 117 – Westerglen).
- Shieldhill's one surveyed settlement-level sports area and playspace (116 – Shieldhill Playing Fields) is considered to be of only 'fair' quality. This is predominantly due to poor/ vandalised play facilities, paths and access, which do not contribute adequately to the local population's use of this space in a manner which benefits their quality of life.
- The village's one surveyed settlement-level semi-natural greenspace (117 – Westerglen) is considered to be of good quality and fit for purpose. The use of this space benefits local quality of life.
- Shieldhill's one surveyed neighbourhood-level public park and garden and playspace (115 – Shieldhill Park, Main Street) is considered to be of good quality and fit for purpose.
- The village's one surveyed neighbourhood-level school-ground is not currently open to the public.
- There is only a fair level of access (within 400m) to the one surveyed public park and garden in Shieldhill, with 37% of households having access to it. These are concentrated in the central part of Shieldhill, with no access from the western and eastern ends of the village.
- There is very good access (within 800m) to the one surveyed site with a sports area, with 83% of households (all apart from the eastern end of Shieldhill) having access to it.
- There is only fair access (within 400m) to the surveyed site with a playspace, with 37% of households having access to it.
- There is excellent access (100% of households) to surveyed sites containing natural/ semi-natural greenspace within 1200m, with the central and eastern part of Shieldhill having access to more than one semi-natural space.
- Hallglen Canal Corridor is the nearest national open space – it is 1.7km from the centre of Shieldhill. Westquarter Burn is the nearest regional open space – it is 1.5km from the village.

Strategy Overview

Surveyed open spaces are well-distributed around the periphery of the village and offer a variety of typologies. Central spaces are smaller, with no large central public open space in Shieldhill. Improvements to the quality of Shieldhill Playing Fields are a priority. In addition, improving access to and provision of parks and playspaces in existing or new locations should be a priority for both the western and easternmost neighbourhoods, and sports provision is a priority in the eastern end of Shieldhill.

Strategy Actions

National/Regional-Level Open Space

- Both Hallglen Canal Corridor and Westquarter offer green corridor and natural/ semi-natural open space facilities which are within 20 minutes walk. Connections to these should be strengthened where necessary.

Settlement-Level Open Space

- Shieldhill Playing Fields – this settlement-level sports area is of only fair quality and does not meet 'fitness for purpose' requirements. Improvements to it are a priority, and creation of a local park and playspace in or next to it, along with better access, could help rectify local underprovision.
- Westerglen – this semi-natural open space running along the north-eastern boundary of the village is of good quality and 'fit for purpose'. Improvements to quality are not a priority, although better path surfaces and access would benefit users. Priority should, however, be given to considering if improved access in combination with new park and play facilities would rectify underprovision of these two typologies.

Neighbourhood-Level Open Space

- Shieldhill Park, Main Street – the one surveyed neighbourhood-level public park is of good quality and therefore 'fit for purpose'. Although not a priority, there is potential for improvement through new planting and better play facilities and connections with the community hall.
- Shieldhill School – this is the only surveyed neighbourhood-level schoolground. It does not currently have public access; however, priority should be given to looking at new park and play facilities and opening the site to public use, if this would contribute towards provision of these two typologies in the neighbourhood.

General

- Green corridors and natural/ semi-natural open spaces are extremely well-provided for around Shieldhill, and no further provision is necessary.
- The strategy, in terms of typology provision, should be to focus on

improving provision of and/ or access to parks and playspaces at both the western and eastern ends of the village (not the centre), and sports areas at the eastern end, to enhance the health and well-being of the local population.

- The western end of Shieldhill is potentially under-provided for in terms of access to a public park or playspace. However, the surveyed open spaces do not include what appear to be a number of small amenity open spaces or pocket parks in or near this part of the village. A quality survey of these spaces should be considered prior to addressing potential underprovision in these areas.
- The eastern end of the village is also potentially under-provided for in terms of access to a public park or playspace and, around Patrick Drive and the east end of Main Street, to a sports area. Again, the surveyed open spaces do not include some small amenity open spaces or pocket parks in or near this part of the village. A quality survey of these spaces should be considered prior to addressing potential underprovision in these areas.
- Where actual underprovision is determined after survey, the need to determine providing new spaces should relate to how far access to these types of spaces falls below the accessibility thresholds.
- Increasing provision in the west of Shieldhill should consider: improving access to and/ or diversity of park and play facilities in Shieldhill Playingfields and/ or School; and increasing access to/ provision of neighbourhood-level pocket parks and playspaces.
- Increasing provision in the east of Shieldhill should consider: improving access to and/ or diversity of park/ play/ sports facilities in Westerglen; increasing access to/ provision of neighbourhood-level pocket parks and playspaces; and determining through consultation the level of interest in an additional sports area on the village boundary.
- Two areas in the eastern part of Shieldhill are allocated for housing. Little existing public open space nearby may require provision of some local play facilities/ a pocket park, or utilising planning gain could be considered in terms of need for a new sports area/ playspace on the settlement boundary.
- Implement local biodiversity 'toolkit' for settlement/ neighbourhood-level spaces.
- Maintain the high level of provision of natural/ semi-natural greenspace provided by the surrounding spaces, while ensuring appropriate conservation and management for natural heritage and biodiversity benefits.